



Winter 2005 Issue Number 2

RECERTIFICATION UPDATE

DEP thanks you for going through the Environmental Partners Recertification Process. Several years ago when you first joined the Environmental Partners Program, volunteer certification meant taking a Pledge for Vehicle Maintenance and Repair. We appreciate that you have taken another comprehensive look at your shop and updated many of the practices needed to remain in good standing in the Environmental Partners Program. Recertification means changing everyday operations in a way that will help protect worker safety, help the local

environment and, hopefully, save you money too. Recertification means that you have committed to adopting even more pollution prevention practices to achieve a healthier environment. Whether it's process substitution (switching to a microbial parts washer), or product substitution, employee training, good housekeeping methods, or recycling alternatives – you have accomplished the steps to be recertified for another year. If you haven't already received your new certificate, you will get it very soon.

WHAT ONE PARTNER IS DOING

Fletchers Service Center in Olney was featured on the Green Man Show which aired on County Cable Channel 6 in 2004. Their thin film solar panels provide 10% of the energy consumed at the Center. For car washes, they recycle water during the wash process, then rinse cars with water that combines both fresh and recycled to keep energy costs low and save water. They estimate each car washed this way requires less than 25 gallons of water, compared to the average homeowner who uses approximately 150 gallons during a home car wash. Bobby Fletcher received an award from DEP for these accomplishments at the Fall Workshop.

THE POLLUTION PREVENTION CONNECTION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S FACILITIES

Montgomery County recognizes that local governments are in the unique position of being both regulated and regulators. Many of the industrial-type operations inherent in public service are subject to state and federal environmental law. For this reason, a formal Pollution Prevention Program for County-owned facilities was established in September 1999. The goal is to systematically lessen the impact of county operations on the environment, improve the County's compliance with regulations, and share environmental solutions among agencies and other interest groups. As part of this program the County has adopted extensive Best Management Practices, or BMPs, and a variety of other stormwater pollution prevention techniques that were presented at the Fall Workshop (*see pages 2 & 3*). For more information about the County's Pollution Prevention Program contact Ms. Ligia Moss, DEP, tel. 240-777-7756, or email ligia.moss@montgomerycountymd.gov.



FALL WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

This Fall, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) hosted the premier Workshop for Environmental Partners. This fact filled morning program covered many topics germane to the auto repair industry in Montgomery County. In case you could not attend there will be other gatherings in 2006 which DEP will widely publicize in advance. Until the next gathering of Environmental Partners here is a chance to catch up on what happened at the Fall Workshop



Recognizing Progress

James Caldwell, Director of DEP, gave awards to four shops for adopting and implementing best management practices that lead to a cleaner and safer shop. The awardees were recognized for many changes, such as installing solar panels, using rain gardens for runoff, and switching to aqueous based parts washers (which eliminate volatile organic compounds and help our region attain healthier air quality). The awardees are: Fletchers Service Center, Merchant's Tire and Auto, Precision Auto, and Winkler Automotive Service Center.

The County's DPWT reported on how much the Fleet Division had done to save money and work greener at the same time. Through these initiatives, the County has reduced long-term liabilities, provided a safer work environment for employees, and eliminated storage and disposal costs.

Pollution Prevention Practices At Work

was presented by Rodney Martin, DPWT. He highlighted many ongoing programs that have been permanently adopted by Fleet Management Services. He talked about preventing, reducing and managing hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants in a way that saves money and resources. He addressed: source reduction, substitution of non-toxic materials, fleet replacement to mitigate air pollution (they have many hybrid cars), and helpful ways to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Hazardous Materials Use Certificate

The Hazardous Materials Use Certificate of the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) Permits were addressed by Barbara Moore, Montgomery County Department of Homeland Security (email Barbara.moore@montgomerycountymd.gov). She cited Executive Regulation (§17-03) and Fire Safety Code (§ 22-43) that both govern the Hazardous Materials Use Certificate required under LEPC. She covered what a hazardous substance is, and described the 4 types of facilities (light, general, high use and SARA facilities); how someone can file: (online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/businesses (click on licenses and permits), or pick up an application at 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd floor, Rockville 20850, or by contacting her directly 240-777-2327 to have it mailed.

Hazardous Waste and Pollution Prevention Compliance

Pat Page, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reported that auto repair facilities may generate several types of waste that are regulated under federal or state laws. These include: scrap tires, used oil filters, scrap batteries, waste solvents, waste coolant, used oil, and other automotive fluids. If you have any questions about whether or not your waste is hazardous, please call MDE at 410-537-3345 or www.mde.state.md.us. One important note is that auto repair shops are required to know the hazardous or non-hazardous nature of their materials and wastes.

Scrap Tire Licensing

A Scrap Tire Collection Facility License is required by all persons engaged in the storage, collection, transferring, hauling, recycling, or processing of scrap tires. Likewise, a Scrap Tire Haulers License is required by all persons who, as a part of a commercial business, transport scrap tires in the State to or from a scrap tire facility. Facilities need one of three types of collection facility licenses: general, secondary, or primary. For questions or more details on scrap tire regulations, contact MDE's Solid Waste Program, 1800 Washington Blvd, # 605 Baltimore, MD 21230, telephone 410-537-3315, 800-633-6101x3315 www.mde.state.md.us.



Hands-On Workshop

The workshop participants went to the Equipment Management and Operations Center transit shop to see first hand the microbial parts washer used for everyday parts washing in a shop that operates 24 hours a day for transit and heavy equipment vehicles. Shop owners saw first-hand a part being washed in the microbial washer. The parts washer that the county owns contains microbes in a reservoir that eats away at the oil and grease which means this microbial parts washer generates no waste! Bioremediation is the process by which the microbes turn harmful materials into non-toxic substances.

Water Quality Permits

A representative from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) gave a brief overview of stormwater management practices around shop premises. If you operate your place in sloppy manner then pollutants will be carried off by the next rain into the nearest stormdrain. Any washing of vehicles, equipment, or pavement outside contributes to a dirty discharge into the nearest stormwater drain. If wastewater is directed to a storm drain then a NPDES discharge permit is required (contact MDE at 800-633-6101). The most practical way to responsibly handle wastewater (indoors and out) is to connect the floor drains to a sanitary sewer. The Clean Water Act allows MDE to impose a permit on a case by case basis if there is a significant pollution problem - so keep your place clean inside and out and implement the 4-step cleanup method (*see page 4*).

WHAT IS THE 4-STEP FLOOR CLEANUP METHOD?

1. If the spill contains oil, then remove the oil portion of the spill first with your spill kit for oil spills. Using a hydrophobic mop (a mop which only absorbs oil), mop up the spill while restricting the back-and-forth movement of the mop to avoid spreading oil. Transfer collected oil to a properly labeled waste oil container for recycling.
2. For antifreeze spills – if petroleum products are present, make sure you first remove the oil portion (step 1). Have a spill kit labeled “antifreeze spill kit” readily accessible. Mop the spill immediately using a dedicated cloth mop and then transfer the collected antifreeze to a properly labeled antifreeze waste container for recycling.
3. Use rags to dry the floor. Place used rags in properly labeled waste containers and send rags to an industrial laundry. Do not saturate the rags, otherwise you will have drips on the floor as you transfer them to the waste containers.
4. Use a wet mop only if necessary for final cleaning. Use mild, non-caustic detergents. Caustic detergents are corrosive to skin, eyes, and mucous membranes, and can react with other chemicals.



Remember → for larger spills which reach the outdoors, immediately block the stormdrain to prevent entry of the materials into the waterways and contain the spill with the appropriate socks or booms. If the spill enters the interior floor drain, contact WSSC at 301-206-8526. For permission to discharge into a sanitary drain contact Maryland Department of the Environment to obtain a NPDES discharge permit at 800-633-6101. *The first 10 people to read this and call DEP at 240-777-7714 will win a 4-step spill kit.*

→ MAKE THE SWITCH TO AQUEOUS CLEANING UNITS! VENDORS OF MICROBIAL PARTS WASHERS

(Montgomery County does not endorse any vendor)

Atec Trans-Tool Cleaning Systems

110 Connelly
San Antonio, TX 78203
800-531-5978
email: sales@atec-trans-tool.com
www.atec-trans-tool.com/

ChemFree Corporation

8 Mecca Way
Norcross, GA 30093
770-564-5580 800-521-7182
www.chemfree.com

Graymills Corporation

3705 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
888-GRAYMIL

KleenTec Inc.

1212 Sykes Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
800-435-5336
www.kleentec.com

NAPA Auto Parts

831 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-948-8990

Renegade

2320 Zinga Drive
Reedsburg, WI 53959
800-774-7900
www.renegadepartswashers.com/

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